




Kids Composting Tool Kit

Dear Parents and Guardians


In addition to bottle and can recycling...why not try composting? Composting is returning needed nutrients to the soil. Bacteria and other microorganisms consume these materials producing a dark, earthy compost. Rich in nutrients, makes a great soil amendment or mulch for your garden, beneficial for root growth, improves water-retention in soils, and *helps conserve natural resources and saves you money!*

County of
San Bernardino
Department of
Public Works
Solid Waste
Management Division

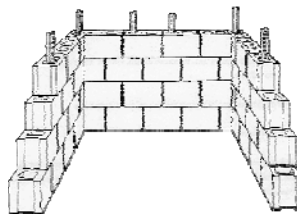
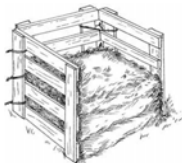
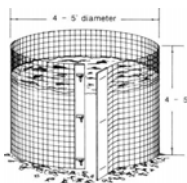
We'll help you get started with the following:

 Greens provide the energy for your compost pile. Greens are the nitrogen source. Typical greens are:

-  LAWN CLIPPINGS
-  PLANT PRUNINGS
-  HORSE MANURE
-  VEGETABLE SCRAPS
-  GARDEN WEEDS (no seeds)
-  COFFEE GROUNDS/FILTERS

 Browns are the carbon source for your compost pile. Browns provide food for your compost pile. Typical browns are:

-  DRY LEAVE
-  SAWDUST
-  SHREDDED NEWSPAPER
-  WOOD SHAVINGS
-  DRIED LAWN CLIPPINGS
-  STRAW



Bins can be store-bought or homemade out of "wood" "brick" "wire" or "plastic".

Your compost pile should be a 50/50

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mix of brown (avoid pine needles) & green materials. Composting works best with at least one cubic yard of material.



Remember to mix in some water and keep the pile moist (like a damp sponge). Fluff up your pile once a week.

In a month or two, your compost will be ready!



Children's Forest, Running Springs

TROUBLESHOOTING

Symptom	Problem	Solution
Bad odor.	Not enough air, or too much green material.	Mix the pile, or add in more brown material.
Pile is damp and warm only in the center.	Pile is too small.	Collect more material and mix it into the pile.
Pile is damp and sweet smelling, but no heat.	Lack of green material.	Mix in more green material like fresh lawn clippings, yard trimmings, and weeds.
Pile is attracting animals.	Meat and other animal products have been included. Or food scraps are not well covered.	Keep meat and other animal products out of the pile. Cover all food with brown materials such as leaves, wood chips, or finished compost.



In Ground Composting?

You can also try in ground composting. Food scraps can be buried in empty areas of vegetable and flower gardens, or in holes outside the drip line (below the ends of branches) of trees and shrubs. Use a shovel or post hole digger to dig a hole

Add 2 - 3" of food scraps to the hole, mix with soil, and cover with at least 8" of soil.

The hole should be at least 12" deep.

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COMPOSTING WORD SEARCH

Words can be found diagonally, horizontal, vertical and backwards.

Good Luck and Happy Composting!

G	N	I	L	C	Y	C	E	R	K	T	S	E
O	P	I	S	O	M	R	S	G	N	A	M	O
R	I	A	T	M	B	D	R	E	V	T	S	A
L	M	P	O	W	S	A	M	E	T	N	I	S
E	L	M	A	O	S	N	G	S	S	E	N	D
A	B	S	R	S	O	E	E	S	E	D	A	N
V	T	M	I	R	T	C	L	E	C	R	G	U
E	S	R	I	A	A	L	I	B	R	A	R	O
S	M	V	B	T	E	I	P	A	U	G	O	R
F	N	L	R	H	T	N	A	T	O	R	O	G
E	E	U	S	N	W	O	R	B	S	O	R	E
S	R	G	S	T	A	R	E	G	E	D	C	E
P	G	U	G	A	A	I	E	E	R	O	I	F
E	A	R	T	H	L	W	F	T	E	R	M	F
C	E	A	H	C	L	U	M	Y	A	I	O	O
T	S	O	P	M	O	C	C	T	N	W	O	C

COMPOST

AIR

GRASS

EGG SHELLS

GARDEN

ODOR

COFFEE GROUNDS

RECYCLING

BROWNS

EARTH

MULCH

WATER

GREENS

RESOURCES

WASTE

MICROORGANISMS

LEAVES

PILE

ENVIRONMENT

VEGETABLES

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or trench about 1 foot deep. Add 2 to 3 inches of food scraps to the hole. Chop and mix scraps into soil, then cover the food scraps with at least 8 inches of soil to keep pests out. Check occasionally for signs of digging by rodents, dogs or other pests. If you see signs of digging, it may be better to switch to a digester or worm bin. Food scraps may take from 1 to 6 months to decompose depending on the season, moisture, soil and the type of food scraps that are buried. Seeds and small seedlings may be planted on top of buried food



Kindergarten student 5 years old

scraps immediately. Large transplants should not be planted until the food has decomposed. Do not bury more food scraps in the same place until the first scraps have been fully composted.

Additional Information Can Be Found At:

www.davisrecycling.org

www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Organics/HomeCompost

www.earth911.com/recycling/garden

www.epa.gov/wastes/conservation/rrr/composting



**County of San Bernardino • Department of Public Works
Solid Waste Management Division • 222 W. Hospitality Lane, 2nd Floor
San Bernardino, California 92415-0017
1.800.722.8004 • www.sbcounty.gov/dpw/solidwaste**